ADEX Mary Kolb Berglund and McDermott Traveling Fellowships 2022:
Castles of Scotland

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I. Introduction

Figure 1: Map of Scotland

For this year's Berglund and McDermott Fellowships, I had the opportunity to travel to Scotland. I was in pursuit of architectural relics that cannot be found in America - castles. I sought out a variety of castles across the country to study, creating an analysis of specific characteristics to compare between buildings. My hope with this research is to collect and publish information on these incredible, and sometimes forgotten, historical structures, but additionally to encourage travel amongst the architecture community.

II. Methodology and Itinerary

My methodology in researching Scottish castles was as follows:

I. Year Built
II. Location
III. Size
IV. Site
V. Purpose
VI. Clan/Family
VII. Historical Events
VIII. Functions
IX. Defense Mechanisms
X. Evolution, Current State
XI. Experiential

In selecting castles, I aimed to visit as varied of location as possible. I road tripped across Scotland from the south, near Glasgow, to the west coast, near Isle of Skye, to the north, near Inverness, to the center, the Highlands, to the east coast, near Aberdeen, and finally to the southeast, in Edinburgh.

Thus, the itinerary landed as follows:

I. Day I – Fly into Glasgow
II. Day II – Road trip to Stirling, then Fort William
III. Day III- Road trip to the Isle of Skye
IV. Day IV- Isle of Skye
V. Day V- Road trip to Inverness
VI. Day VI – Road trip to Aberdeen, then the Highlands
VII. Day VII- Road trip to Edinburgh
VIII. Day VIII- Fly out of Edinburgh

The castles I visited were:

Figure 2: Map of Scottish Castles Visited

I. Stirling Castle
II. Eilean Donan Castle
III. Urquhart Castle
IV. Dunnottar Castle
V. Blackcraig Castle
VI. Edinburgh Castle

III. Overview

As most people do not know the finer details of Scottish history, I will provide a quick overview of common names and themes (bolded) that you will see in the castle research.

You will notice a pattern in Scottish history- the Scots and English were constantly at odds. The English relentlessly fought for control of the entire island, but the Scots are historically strong-willed people and would never give in easily. This is clear in the exchange of ownership of many of the castles on my tour. There are multiple wars and complex uprisings that you will read about that describe the tumultuous relationship between England and Scotland. Another common theme you will encounter is the conflict between religion. From the start of Christianity to Catholicism, to Protestant, and to Presbyterianism. A final note is the long-standing alliance between the Scottish and French. This friendship gave support against the attacks of the English and could explain the hints of French influence in Scottish architecture.

The earliest documented history of Scotland starts in the 1st century AD with Romans invading the island of Britain. They were unable to capture the area known today as Scotland, due to the fierce native inhabitants named the **Picts**. By the 5th century, Celtic people from Ireland, named the Scots, immigrated to the area known today as Scotland. They were Christian and converted the native Picts with the help of **Saint Columba** and embraced the Pict people as their own. By the 10th century, the area was named Scotland. In 1066, Anglo-Saxons from England immigrated to the Lowlands, and influenced society structure with Feudalism.

The infamous **Wars of Independence** began with the heir to the throne, Margaret, dying in 1290. With 13 claims to throne, **Edward I of England** announced he was the decision maker, and selected John de Baliol as King. Instead of helping the English against the French, Baliol sided with the French, with established an alliance for the next 260 years. Enraged, Edward I invaded Scotland in 1296, took Baliol prisoner, and made himself King of Scotland. To frustrate the Scots even more, Edward I took the Stone of Scone, an ancient Scottish relic in which all Scottish kings had been crowned, and housed it at Westminster Abbey, beneath the English coronation chair for further insult. In response, the Scots fought back. **William Wallace**, now a famous Scottish hero, led Scottish forces against the English in 1297 at Stirling bridge and forced them back to England. The subsequent year, Edward I fought the Scottish again and won at Falkirk. Wallace was taken and executed, his head on display at London Bridge. (This is what inspired the movie "Braveheart".) The Scots, unwilling to be subdued, took a new hero, **Robert the Bruce**, who won the ultimate battle of the Wars of Independence in 1314 near Stirling Castle, causing Edward II to finally announce Scottish independence in 1328.

Mary Stuart, or later known as **Mary Queen of Scots**, claimed the throne as an infant in 1542, and lived her childhood out in France. John Knox, a follower of Protestant reformer John Calvin, took control of Scotland in that time, and converted much of Scotland to a Presbyterian system. When she returned to Scotland in 1561, Mary was able to take back control of the throne for a period. But through conflict with nobles and two failed marriages, she was forced to flee Scotland. Queen Elizabeth I imprisoned Mary Queen of Scots and executed her. Her son, **James**

VI (or later known as James I of England) was raised Presbyterian and inherited the English throne in 1603. He was able to rule the two countries, separated but united. Over the coming years, the English pushed Episcopal religion and government on the Scots, resulting in Scotland dissenting against **Charles I**. Civil war, the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, caused the Scottish to side with Parliamentarians against Charles I and the Royalists. However, Parliamentarian army commander **Oliver Cromwell** executed Charles I in 1649, without consulting the Scottish. This consequently caused the Scottish to support and protect Charles' son **Charles II**, infuriating Cromwell, who then invaded Scotland to assert his English rule. Eventually, Charles II was regained the English throne.

Now, we move to the Jacobite period. James II of England was removed from the throne and the national church of Scotland became Presbyterianism. The exiled Stuarts in France (descendants of Mary Queen of Scots) were still supported by Highlanders, and in 1715 Scots tried to reinstate the Stuarts to the throne. James Stuart (renamed **James III**) and his son Charles Edward (known as **Bonnie Prince Charlie**) both attempted to gain the throne with their supporters known as the **Jacobites** causing several Jacobite Risings. This ultimately ended in failure for Bonnie Prince Charlie at the infamous Battle of Culloden in 1746. (This plot inspired the TV series Outlander.) The losing Jacobites were forced to give up land, titles, among other things to the English government which we will see play into the castles' stories.

History after this time for Scotland, merges with England in the United Kingdom as they took control of Scotland permanently. Modern Scotland frequently pursued independence from the UK with losing votes in 1979, 1997, 2014, and continuing today.

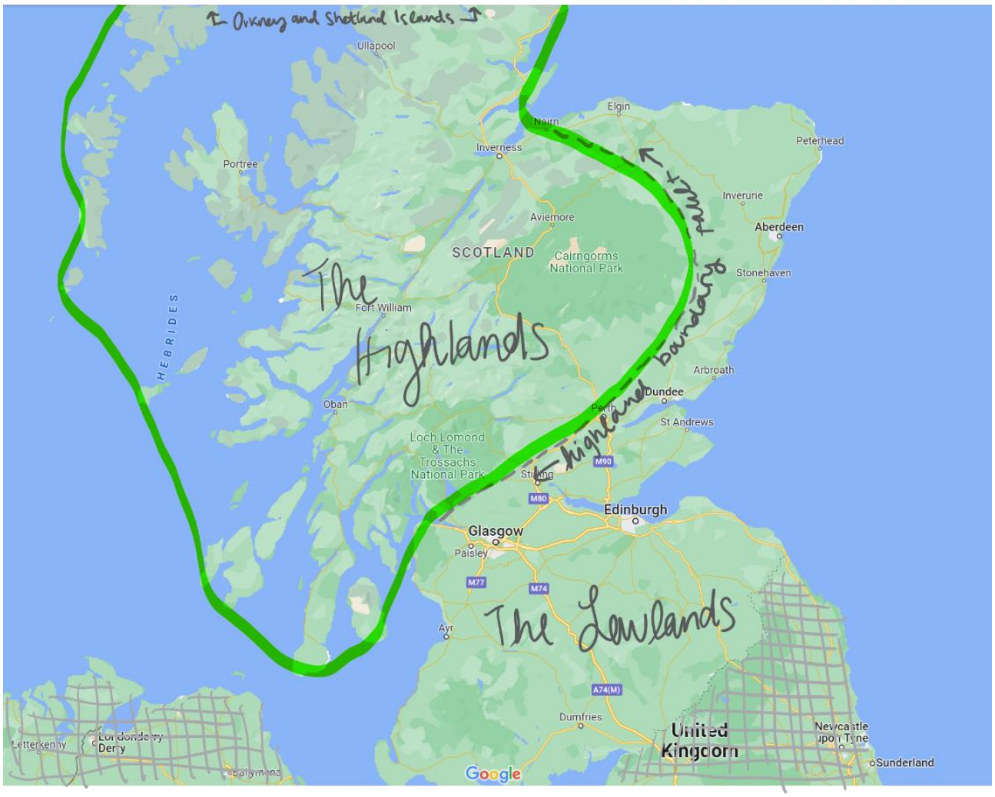

Figure 3: Map of the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland

In addition to a lesson on Scottish history, I will delve into specific castle (and Scottish) terminology you will encounter with the castle analysis. These terms will be in italics in the research analysis.

Arsenal- a building where weapons are stored

Artillery battery- a unit of multiple artillery, like cannons

Bailey- courtyard area enclosed by a curtain wall

Barrel vault- semi-circular stone roof/ceiling

Barracks- a building used to house soldiers

Bastion- projecting piece of a fort enclosure designed to allow defensive fire in more directions

Battlement- also called “crenellations”; a parapet with raised and lowered pieces of wall cut in a rectangular fashion, allowing for attack and protection when defending the castle

Bonnie- Scottish slang for pretty or attractive

Bowling green- an area of smooth, short grass to play lawn bowling

Caponier- a covered passage within a ditch

Clan- Gaelic derived word for kin; an extended family that is closely bound. They could have the same surname or different surnames linked through shared history, they could be adopted into the clan, but historically lived on the same lands and led by a chief.

Curtain wall- an exterior perimeter wall enclosing the castle grounds

Doocot- a structure for housing messenger pigeons

Drawbridge- a heavy timber platform that spans a moat or ditch between a gatehouse and adjacent land to be raised when the entrance to the castle grounds needs to be blocked

Dry ditch- a moat without water; deep trench that surrounds the perimeter of castle grounds for defensive purposes

Dun- Pictish word that means "place of strength"

Earthwork- fortification made of earth mounds

Eilean- Gaelic word for island

Embrasure- cut outs in a curtain wall to fire guns, cannons, etc.

Esplanade- long, open exterior area reserved for walking for pleasure

Forge- a hearth used to create metal objects, used by a blacksmith

French Gothic style- architectural style from mid-12th century to mid-16th century, mainly characterized by impressive height and abundant windows achieved through buttressing and vaulting; notable example is the Notre-Dame Cathedral

Gallery- long passage or room

Gatehouse- the collection of towers, bridges, and other barriers to protect the entrance to castle grounds

Great Hall- a building in the central interior of the castle grounds used for the main meeting or dining area for the castle inhabitants, and can also house the thrones of a royal castle

The Highlands- geographically, this area in Scotland is defined by the Highland Boundary Fault, dividing the country from the southwest up to the north, with the Highlands to the west of the

fault. Culturally, Highlanders were seen as more Gaelic, speaking Scottish Gaelic, using the Clan societal system, and generally seen as "backwards". Highlanders were notoriously persecuted throughout the years, attempts by the English and Lowlanders to destroy their native culture.

Hornwork- the element of a fortification's curtain walls that are shaped into angular points or horn-like designs to enclose the castle grounds

The Honours of Scotland- Scottish crown jewels, traditionally worn by Scottish monarchs at their coronations

Jacobite- supporter of restoring the line of Scottish Stuarts to the British throne; derived from the Latin word Jacobus translation of James; specifically, James II, James VII, James Stuart, and Charles Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie)

Keep- the "stronghold" of a castle, or the strongest building in a castle

Loch- Scottish word for lake

Loch Ness Monster- legendary creature in Scottish folklore that is described as living in 745-foot deep Loch Ness; affectionately known as Nessie

The Lowlands- geographically, this area in Scotland is defined by the Highland Boundary Fault, dividing the country from the southwest up to the north, with the Lowlands to the east of the fault. Culturally, Lowlanders spoke English, and more closely identified with English cultural practices.

Mons Meg- medieval cannon at Edinburgh Castle; largest cannon in the world

Motte- mound of earth on which towers can be built

Murder holes- holes between the main gate and portcullis where hot oil, rocks, arrows can be dropped from above in defense when the outer gate has been breached

Orillon- round tower at curtain walls, extensions of bastion towers, to assist in defense

Oubliette- a prison/dungeon/underground pit accessed by a trap door

Picts- derived from the Latin word for painted; ancient people that lived in north/northeast Scotland, first recorded sighting in 297 AD. They were known for their beautifully carved stones and crosses and painted or tattooed their bodies. They spoke a Celtic language and lived in underground stone houses.

Portcullis- heavy iron or timber latticed gate that protects the castle entrance, which can be raised or lowered vertically

Scottish Baronial style- an architectural style in the 19th century as a version of Gothic revival, reminiscent of Scottish castles. Notable elements include battlement walls, conical roofs, and tourelles.

Sentry box- a shelter structure for a sentry, or guard

Shot-holes- hole for firearms within a curtain wall

Smithy- a blacksmith's workshop

Spiral stair- a circular staircase to access upper floors, the most economical type of stair

Tourelle- a type of circular turret, common in Scottish Baronial and Chateauesque architecture

Turret- small round tower, typically used as a lookout

Wall-walk- raised path along the curtain wall

IV. Castle Analysis

Stirling Castle

Figure 4: Satellite View of Stirling Castle

Year Built: Earliest structures on the campus were first built in the late 11th Century.

Location: Stirling, Scotland, UK (South Scotland)

Approximate Land Area: 348,700 ft2

Figure 5: Exterior Photo of Stirling Castle

Site: As with all the castles on my tour, Stirling Castle has an impressive site. Situated on top of a 250-foot rocky volcanic outcropping, it could control the River Forth and Stirling Bridge. The site alone with its useful natural defenses in height with sight lines and sheer cliffside drops as a boundary has probably been occupied since the Iron Age. The location in Scotland is also significant in its design; the city of Stirling is conveniently located between the Lowlands and the Highlands. It was nicknamed "the huge brooch" connecting the two lands together.

Purpose: Strategic, political, royal residence

Clan/Family: The Stirling Castle hosted Scottish and English royal families from the late 11th Century up to the early 17th Century, afterwards having a military focus up until 1964. It is currently owned by Historical Environment Scotland.

Historical Events: Stirling Castle has quite a tumultuous history in comparison to the other castles on my tour. Notable figures that had a role in its story are William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots, and Bonnie Prince Charlie. At its early stages as a royal residence, the castle was seen as important as the Edinburgh castle to the east. During the Wars of Independence against the English, notable Scottish hero William Wallace beat out a larger English force in 1297 close to the castle. In subsequent years, the castle exchanged hands frequently between the Scottish and the English, constantly struggling to hold power at this significantly located area between the Lowlands and the Highlands. Robert the Bruce, another famous Scottish hero, won Stirling castle back from the British in a successful siege, as he did with Edinburgh castle, in 1314. However, in a twisted defensive strategy, Robert the Bruce demolished the castle, to keep it out of English hands forever more. But, in another twist of fate a few years later, in the 1330s, King Edward III of England took back the site, and rebuilt the castle as part of "interventions with the Scottish". Again, the Scottish took back what was rightfully theirs, in 1342, after a six-

month siege around the castle. James I through James VI of Scotland as well as Mary Queen of Scots resided in the castle for the next 200 years from 1406 to 1603, ending with James VI of Scotland becoming King James I of England and leaving for London. During this time, James IV revamped much of the castle campus. He built the Great Hall in 1500 along with kitchens, a Royal Chapel, an inner courtyard, and a massive entry gate with watchtowers. All these elements are restored and visible today. James V developed the Palace building addition, with royal apartments. His daughter, Mary Queen of Scots was coronated in the Royal Chapel in 1543. Henry, eldest son of James VI, demolished the Royal Chapel and replaced it with a more protestant-approved structure in 1594. Going through two more sieges by English Oliver Cromwell in 1651 and then in 1745 when Bonnie Prince Charlie tried to win back the castle for the Scottish but was severely defeated. With its sole military focus in 1800, the Great Hall was converted into a three-story barracks, and powder magazines were built near the exterior fortress walls. Current day, various parts of the castle have been restored for visitors to view under Historical Environment Scotland's management.

Figure 6: Site Sketch of Stirling Castle

Functions: Royal apartments, *Great Hall*, Kitchens, Royal Chapel, lookout terraces, gardens, *bowling green*, Governor's House, watchtowers, courtyards, army *barracks*, *gallery*, Royal Palace (French gothic in style), King's Old Building (rebuilt in Scottish Baronial style).

Defense Mechanisms: High elevation for visual control, sheer cliffside drops, *curtain walls*, *wall-walk*, *caponier*, main gate with *portcullis, gatehouse*, *murder holes*, cannon *embrasures*, wide *dry ditches*, *orillons*, *bailey* enclosure housing powder magazines, an *artillery battery*, cannon casting workshop, and even a large catapult (445 men to assemble).

Evolution, Current State: Stirling Castle is a special castle in that over the span of centuries, many different buildings were added and demolished. Some buildings were renovated per royal resident, making it their own, or adding their own religious or foreign influence. Some owners even demolished buildings to keep it out of the hands of others. Its most notable evolution is that it exchanged hands more times to count between the Scottish and the English. What resulted was a quilted, blended effect of cultures and history, uniquely Stirling. Thankfully, much of the campus has been renovated, to different significant times of its history, to be experienced today, due to the work of Historical Environment Scotland.

Experiential: My first impression of Stirling Castle, was a gasp. Driving up to the site, you wind up tight medieval roads, bordered by old stone walls, and are met with a sudden expanse in which you can see the entire valley with a mighty castle dominating the landscape. The castle seems to seamlessly emerge from the ancient volcanic rock, an architect's dream of great site design. I immediately felt the power of the Scots seeing this castle, acknowledging the pull that political rulers must have felt, knowing this was a site that needed to be held. Mouth still open, walking through the main gate, I was amazed by the scale of the buildings. Strolling through the second gate and *portcullis*, I imagined defenders of the castle pouring hot oil on me through visible *murder holes.* As I emerged onto the main courtyard, I felt immediate relief, feeling protected by the *curtain walls* and surrounding medieval cannons. Walking towards the *curtain walls*, my heart beat faster, suddenly realizing the sheer cliff drop below on the other side of the walls. Inside the restored *Great Hall*, you could easily imagine the Scottish Royals entertaining and giving out royal decrees. The height of the interior space is extremely impressive for the time, perfect to assert dominance, placing the royal thrones at the end of this giant space on a raised platform.

Eilean Donan Castle

Figure 7: Satellite View of Eilean Donan Castle

Year Built: First built castle was in early 13th century, although there is some evidence that a monastic cell was located on the island in the 7th century, named after the Irish Saint Donnan of Eigg.

Location: Dornie, Scotland, UK (West Scotland)

Approximate Land Area: 12,900 ft2

Figure 8: Exterior Photo of Eilean Donan Castle

Site: Eilean Donan is no exception when it comes to breathtaking building siting. The castle was built on an island in Loch Duich, a water highway of sorts connecting to the Atlantic, right at the mainland connection to Isle of Skye. With this strategic setting, whoever held the castle could control the entry into the lands of Kintail. This was especially advantageous for stopping Viking raids and was a hopeful post for the Jacobite's and their Spanish supporters. Besides its defensive benefits, the island location of Eilean Donan is incredibly picturesque, creating the most quintessentially Scottish landscape for a castle. The water background is constantly changing the mood of the place- fog and rain creates a somber mysterious building, seemingly floating, while pink sunsets reflected in the Loch below cause a romantic and inspiring architectural dream. The approach to the castle only adds to the magic, lazily gliding up a 235-foot curving stone bridge above the Loch, leaving mainland Scotland behind.

Purpose: Religious, defense, political, residence

Clan/Family: Originally built to protect the lands of Kintail by either King Alexander II or III, then held off and on by the Mackenzie clan from the late 13th Century to the mid-17th Century. After being used by the Jacobite's in 1715-1719, the castle suffered much destruction from the English. Finally, Eilean Donan Castle was bought and restored by the MacRae family in 1911, after two hundred years of abandonment. The MacRaes lived in Kintail since the 14th Century and have worked at the Castle dating back to the 16th Century. The MacRaes still own Eilean Donan today.

Historical Events: As with all the castles on this tour, the land and/or building has exchanged ownership many times, often through violent means. The original castle was instrumental in protecting the "Sea Kingdom" area of Scotland from nearby Vikings who raided most of North

and Western Scotland in the 13th Century. Eilean Donan also had a part in the Jacobite Risings of the 18th Century, leading to its destruction and two-hundred-year abandonment. Fortunately, the MacRae family was ahead of its time, restoring the castle to its former Medieval glory (and adding the present stone bridge) in the early 1900's.

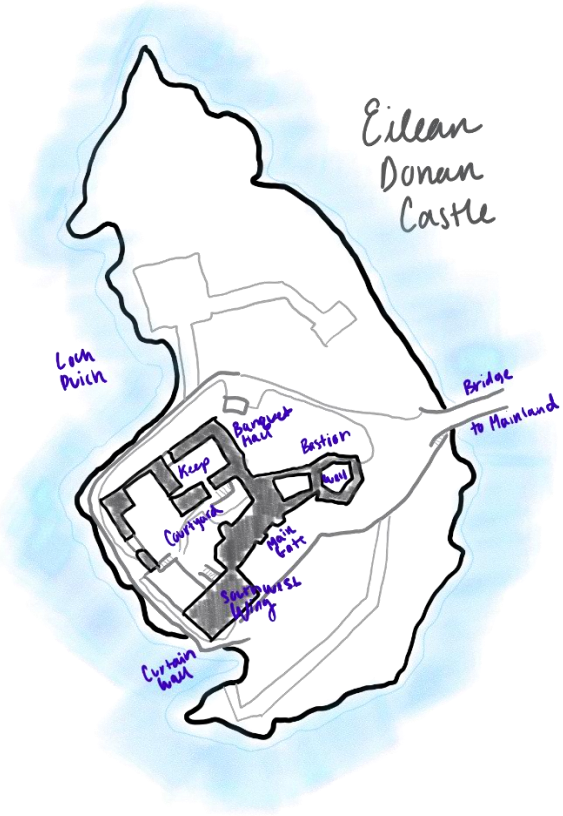

Figure 9: Site Sketch of Eilean Donan Castle

Functions: Originally outer walls and a *gatehouse*. Courtyard added in the 16th century, sea-gate for boat access, constable house, *curtain walls*, *spiral stair* tower. Restored in the 19th Century, the MacRaes added modern castle residences that are in use today in addition to a Banqueting Hall.

Defense Mechanisms: Isolated Island site, *portcullis*, *shot-holes*, *murder holes*, cannons, *hornwork* with a water well that could flood the lower levels to thwart potential attackers.

Evolution, Current State: After a two-hundred year abandonment, Eilean Donan had a 1911 renovation, and is in one of the most in-tact and restored castles on my tour, used as a residence even in present day.

Experiential: To be honest, I will be a bit biased in this description, as this was my favorite castle on the tour. The watery site is the epitome of castle dreams. Only accessible by pedestrian bridge, the castle, as described previously, changes mood constantly depending on the weather

and time. It seems like a mysterious island, that can only be discovered by accident. Imagining the ancient Scots that first built the site, it must have been an eerie and dramatic structure in a rural landscape. I am sure that the invading Vikings had no chance in preparing for this surprise castle island, blissfully unaware their powerful raids were about to end. When I first arrived to the site, the skies suddenly released a furious rainstorm. The castle peered in and out from the heavy rain, barely visible from the parking lot. Almost as sudden as the rain started, it stopped, revealing a moody fog, having the castle appear to float on clouds. I walked towards the pedestrian bridge, silently thanking the architect for locating it not perpendicular. I reveled in the curvy, ambling stone bridge, because it gave the pedestrian the perfect angle to view the castle as you slowly approached. Upon reaching solid ground, I walked towards the main gate, admiring its restored quintessentially medieval portcullis. Entering through the gatehouse, it is obvious that this was a more medieval, less royal castle. The ceilings are low and compressed. When in the inner courtyard, I had a tranquil view of Loch Duich, wondering what guards must have seen in the past centuries. When touring the main house of the site, I was able to peruse historic family relics of the MacRaes. They even had complete furniture sets, a clear reminder that their family still resides in this amazing castle.

Urquhart Castle

Figure 10: Satellite View of Urquhart Castle

Year Built: Potentially was the residence of Pictish nobleman Urquhart in records dating to 580 AD. Was in military use from 1200s up to 1692.

Location: Drumnadrochit, Scotland, UK (North Scotland)

Approximate Land Area: 69,550 ft2

Figure 11: Exterior Photo of Urquhart Castle

Site: Urquhart castle is yet another building with an incredible site. Situated on the shoreline of infamous Loch Ness, the inhabitants have full visual control of the waterway from incoming ship-led invasions, not to mention dramatic views. The original castle even placed the Great Hall right among the best views. The castle is relatively close to water level, so it does not have a height advantage for attacks but can access and allow entry to ships easily.

Purpose: Strategic, political

Clan/Family: Urquhart, Edward I of England, Robert the Bruce, MacDonalds, Grants, Jacobites, State ownership by 1913

Historical Events: Records show that the site had been visited by Saint Columba in 580 for a baptism of the Urquhart family, in which the Saint also encountered a monster in the loch. Ownership of the castle exchanged power between the Scottish and the English frequently, including in 1296 with Edward I invaded (Wars of Independence). The Grant clan was given ownership of the castle in 1509 by James IV for repairs but was repeatedly raided by the MacDonalds who looted over 3,000 sheep and cattle over the years. In 1689, Protestant England garrisoned the castle again, and by 1692, the Jacobite supporters blew up the fortification deliberately to eliminate English control of the site once and for all. The castle was abandoned and in decay until 1913, when Historic Environment Scotland took control of the property and began its repair and protection.

Figure 12: Site Sketch of Urquhart Castle

Functions: Prison cells, banquet hall, early *motte*, chapel, kitchen, *doocot*, *smithy*, nether and upper *bailey*

Defense Mechanisms: Strategic shoreline site, *gatehouse*, watchtower, *dry ditch* with *drawbridge*, water gate, *curtain walls*

Evolution, Current State: With the repeated damage from wars and uprisings, Urquhart Castle unfortunately is just exterior ruins today. However, it is still a protected site and sees many visitors daily, especially with its history and views.

Experiential: Again, if I am honest, this was probably my least favorite castle on my tour. Being on Loch Ness is impressive and mysterious, but Urquhart Castle unfortunately is mostly ruins. Much is left to the imagination, but I did appreciate the drawbridge and moat, a classic fairytale component.

Dunnottar Castle

Figure 13: Satellite View of Dunnottar Castle

Year Built: Evidence of a nearby Pictish fort from possibly 5000 BC. Saint Ninian settled at the site around 400 AD to convert Picts to Christianity. Stone chapel (ruins visible today) built in 1276.

Location: Stonehaven, Scotland, UK (East Scotland)

Approximate Land Area: 164,300 ft2

Figure 14: Exterior Photo of Dunnottar Castle

Site: Off the eastern coast of Scotland, Dunnottar castle commands the North Sea near Aberdeen. With its 160-foot sheer cliffs, its height gives it a significant advantage for counterattacks and visual control. Originally a level peninsula, Dunnottar castle now stands as a steep outcropping, disjointed from its adjacent water-level land. This is due to the early inhabitants cutting away the land to create a more defendable and intimidating approach from the mainland, a steep 160-foot drop with a 2,600-foot path. Arguably the most dramatic site on the tour, Dunnottar castle was believed to be the most secure location in the entire country.

Purpose: Defense, religious, residence

Clan/Family: Picts, St. Ninian, William Wishart Bishop of St. Andrews, William Wallace, English forces, Sir William Keith 1st Earl of Marischal and his 12 subsequent generations of his family (400 years), with guests like Mary Queen of Scots and King Charles II. George Keith (10th Early of Marischal) is forced to forfeit his ownership Dunnottar Castle due to the failed Jacobite uprising. The government sells Dunnottar to York Mining Company in 1717 which removed all things valuable from the castle. Lord and Lady Cowdray purchased and restore the castle in 1919, whose family still owns the site.

Historical Events: Evidence of early Picts civilization near this site as early as 5000 BC. Saint Ninian inhabiting the site to convert Picts to Christianity in 400 AD. King Donald II of Scotland was killed at Dunnottar by Vikings who destroyed many buildings at the site. William Wishart, Bishop of St. Andrews built a stone chapel at Dunnottar in 1276, with some ruins still present

today. William Wallace ruthlessly defeated English garrisons at Dunnottar in 1297, giving control back to the Scottish in the War of Independence. In 1336, English take back control in the Second War of Independence. In 1392, Sir William Keith, Great Marischal of Scotland, built the first stone castle on Dunnottar ("The Keep") in which Pope Benedict XIII was even involved to settle a dispute. Mary Queen of Scots visits the castle in 1562 through 1564. George Keith, 5th Earl Marischal brings a pet lion to Dunnottar and keeps him in the area called "The Lion's Den" in 1593. William Keith, 7th Earl Marischal, resisted religious reforms of Charles I (in support of the Covenanters), and in 1645, Dunnottar was attacked and plundered by James Graham in support of Charles I. During the War of Three Kingdoms (Scotland, England, and Ireland) in 1651, King Charles II visits Dunnottar, prompting an invasion by the Parliamentary Army by Oliver Cromwell. This in turn prompts the Scottish crown jewels, the Honours of Scotland, to be kept at Dunnottar for safekeeping. In 1685, over 167 Covenanters and Whigs were imprisoned in the "Whigs' Vault", a horrible cellar with little light and fresh air, in response to resisting King Charles II's religious reforms. The 10th Earl Marischal, George Keith, was forced to give up his ownership of Dunnottar, in punishment for supporting the Jacobite Rising in 1715. The York Mining Company was sold the property by the government in 1717- they removed everything of value from the castle, even the flooring and ceiling, leaving a shell behind. By 1919, Lord and Lady Cowdray purchased Dunnottar, and began restorations, owning it still today.

Figure 15: Site Sketch of Dunnottar Castle

Functions: Lodging, tunnels, *forge*, stables, palace, chapel, *barrel vault* named the "Whigs' Vault" that was used as a prison, *oubliette*, *bowling green*, *Great Hall*, kitchens, Earl's apartments, 120' gallery, basement with stores

Defense Mechanisms: Strategic site, manmade steep and exposed land approach (2,600-foot path), rocky coves with sheer 160-foot cliffs, *curtain walls*, gate with *portcullis*, *gatehouse*, gun ports, watchtower, *sentry box*, *earthwork* artillery defense

Evolution, Current State: Unfortunately, due to the property being sold to a mining company after the Jacobite Rising, many of the valuable pieces of the castle were taken. What is left today are exterior ruins, but the impressive site still draws visitors today.

Experiential: The entry to this castle is absolutely incredible. You can only see the castle if you hike out from a remote parking lot, through fields of wildflowers, and onto a cliff. For a few moments, it is unclear if the castle is even accessible. Completely cut off from the rest of the land, a steep staircase can lead you down to the beach, and back up to the castle gate. Once you enter through the outer defenses, you emerge onto beautiful green fields and scattered ruins. Walking towards the edge of the land mass, you can see down sheer rock cliffs, so high that birds are flying below your elevation. Looking outwards, you cannot see anything but sea and waves, a clear reminder that this was a control point of the North Sea. My favorite building element was the “Whig’s Vault”, a hidden prison *barrel vault* with a tiny window to the sea below. This was complete with an *oubliette*, a trapdoor entrance to the vault.

Blackcraig Castle and Bridge House

Figure 16: Satellite View of Blackcraig Castle

Year Built: Original tower house in 1550. Blackcraig Castle in 1852 and Bridge House in 1870 by Scottish Architect Patrick Allan Fraser

Location: Ballintuim, Scotland, UK (Central Scotland)

Approximate Land Area: 20,800 SF and 8,700 SF

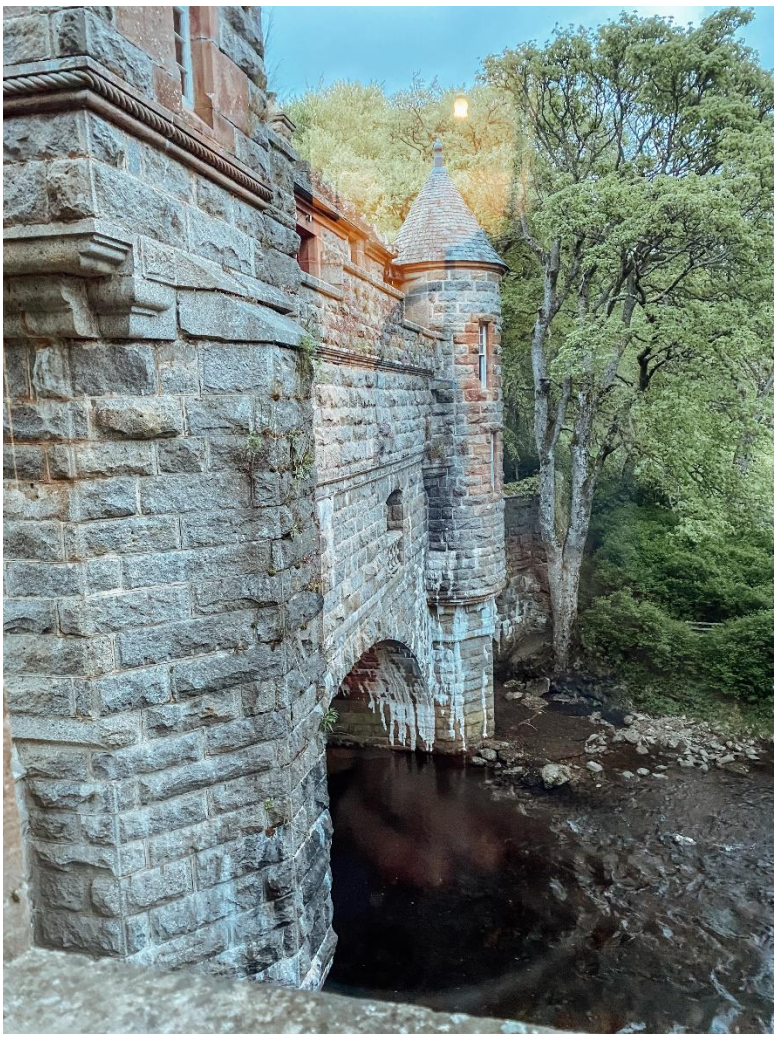

Figure 17: Exterior Photo of Blackcraig Castle Bridgehouse

Site: Located atop River Ardle, Bridge House is a unique structure on Blackcraig Castle's property. It bridges the river, making inhabitants simultaneously feel like royalty and adrift on a ship. The Bridge House is nestled down a tree-lined rural road, relatively remote in the countryside, sandwiched by two sheep pastures. This only adds to the magical atmosphere, surprising drivers upon approach at discovering a castle in such a quintessentially quaint Scottish landscape.

Purpose: Residence, architectural design

Clan/Family: Maxwells, then Fraser, and sold privately and currently run as guest lodging

Historical Events: The Blackcraig Castle is an outlier on this Scottish castle tour. It, in fact, is a historic building mimicking a true medieval Scottish castle. Built in 1852, it is by far the youngest. It is designed in the Scottish Baronial style, an architectural form of the 19th century similar to Gothic Revival in which it matches the Scottish architecture of the Late Middle Ages. It is characterized by conical roofs, *tourelles*, and *battlement* styled walls. Architect Fraser owned and renovated the 16th century tower house at the site and constructed a hunting lodge, bridgehouse, and gatehouse as part of the newly dubbed Blackcraig Castle in the mid-1800s. After his death, the property was owned by an Arts Trust and then sold as guest lodging as it stands today.

Figure 18: Site Sketch of Blackcraig Castle

Functions: Four bedrooms that can be split into separate vacation apartments, with a rooftop patio, and spiral staircases. The bridge portion of the house is vaulted and can shelter cars.

Defense Mechanisms: Arguably the location atop a river could be advantageous in visual control of the property, but the Bridge House and Blackcraig Castle are solely for residential purposes and architectural design pleasure.

Evolution, Current State: Currently in use as vacation lodging.

Experiential: This should be on everyone's list for lodging- a lifetime opportunity, staying in a castle! I loved exploring the interior on my own time and waking up in its historic walls. My favorite part was peering out of the spiral staircase onto the river below. I relaxed before bed on the rooftop patio, watching the lambs play in the pastures below and listening to the babbling of River Ardle.

Edinburgh Castle

Figure 19: Satellite View of Edinburgh Castle

Year Built: The site has been inhabited since the Iron Age. There has been a castle on the site since the 12th century.

Location: Edinburgh, Scotland, UK (Southeast Scotland)

Size: 382,280 SF

Figure 20: Exterior Photo of Edinburgh Castle

Site: Similar to Stirling Castle, Edinburgh Castle is castle is situated on top of an extinct volcano, with the rock peak at 430 feet above sea level and cliffs surrounding it at 260 feet above the city below. The only accessible portion to the site was to the east with a less steep slope (what is now the Royal Mile), nature designing the perfect fort location. Looking up from the city below, Edinburgh Castle seems to grow right out of the volcanic rock, seemingly like the castle was born from the land itself.

Purpose: Strategic, political, royal residence

Clan/Family: Royal families (Queen Margaret, Kind David I, King James IV, Mary Queen of Scots, King James VI)

Historical Events: Castle Rock is thought to have been inhabited as early as the Iron Age, specifically as a place of defense. In the Wars of Independence, Edward I of England took control of the castle in 1296. By 1314, Thomas Randolph 1st Earl of Moray (nephew of Robert the Bruce) recaptured the castle for Scotland. Robert the Bruce ordered its destruction to keep the castle out of English hands. However, in the Second War of Independence, English overtook Castle Rock once again, but William Douglas of Scotland was able to retake the castle back in 1341. Rebuilding and additions to the castle began in the late 1300s and continued into the late 1400s, including David's Tower, Crown Square, Royal apartments, and the Great Hall. The 15th century also saw an increase in utilizing the castle as an *arsenal*. In the 16th century, the Scots built a town wall and artillery defenses around the castle in fear of another English invasion. Mary Queen of Scots lived in Edinburgh Castle in 1565 and gave birth to her son James in the castle. The last reigning monarch to stay in the castle was in 1633 with King Charles I. From 1660 to 1923, Castle Rock maintained a garrison. The first and second Jacobite Risings saw action at Edinburgh Castle, both unsuccessful at capturing the castle for the Scottish. For the following hundred years, the castle vaults were used as prisons for war. After a mass prison

break in 1811, the city decided to no longer use the castle as a prison and transitioned to being used as a national monument instead. The *Honours of Scotland* were even rediscovered in a chest at the castle, and subsequently put on public display. The mid 1800s saw restoration and rebuilding for Edinburgh Castle, including a renovated hospital designed in the Scottish Baronial style.

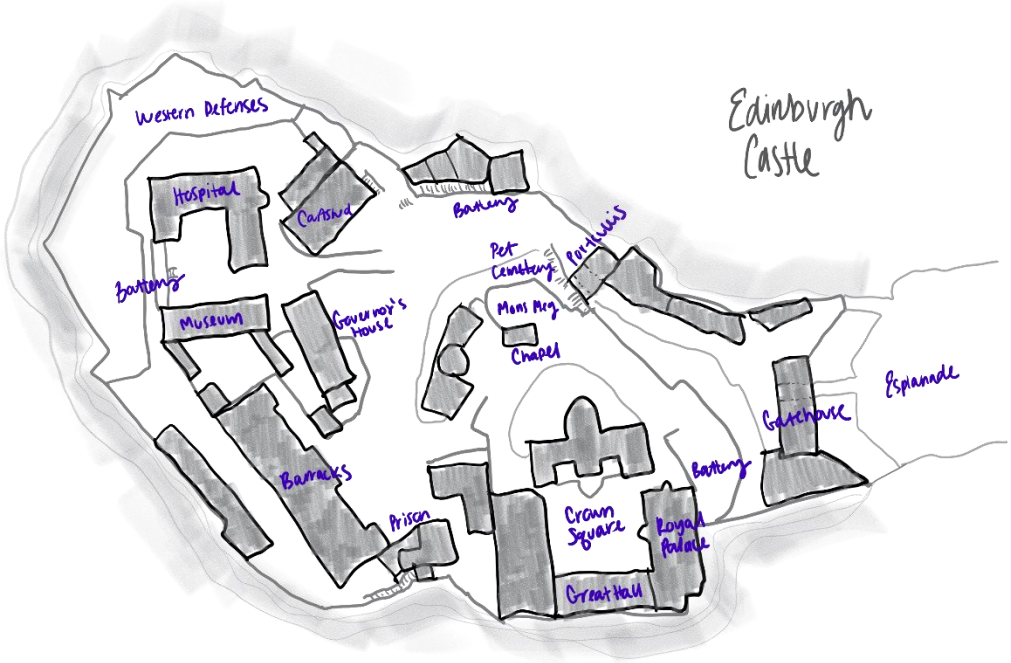

Figure 21: Site Sketch of Edinburgh Castle

Functions: *Esplanade*, Governor's House, military *barracks*, prison, cartsheds, pet cemetery, chapel, courtyards and squares, Royal Palace, Great Hall, and now housing a few memorials and museums within its buildings.

Defense Mechanisms: *Gatehouse*, *Mons Meg*, gate with *portcullis*, watchtower, *artillery battery*, *curtain walls*, *dry ditch*

Evolution, Current State: It is currently owned by the Historic Environment Scotland, in which visitors can tour the castle and its grounds.

Experiential: Edinburgh itself recalls all things Harry Potter. Perched atop an ancient volcanic rock, Edinburgh Castle commands the city below, reminiscent of Hogwarts. The approach is impressive, the castle announcing its strength with its great outer defensive walls. Strolling through the castle grounds, you spiral upwards, discovering new functions along the way. It is obvious that the castle was mainly for defense, with its many weapons and batteries. My favorite part of the visit was the city view below, peering out from the *Mons Meg* location, and getting the surprise of a large pet cemetery in between.

V. Conclusion

The castles of Scotland can teach us much about their tumultuous history as well as spur on magical dreams. Every castle had cinematic-like locations and dominating building scale. From self-imposed destruction to in-house murders, even to monsters in the loch, this castle tour never failed to disappoint. Castles of Scotland would prove to inspire any architect and will teach many for years to come thanks to their current preservation.

As the Scottish say, “Haste Ye Back!”

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